

Explore
Discover
Create



Family Read Week
Activity Booklet

Family Read Week

Books listed here are suggestions to make reading with your family extra special for this week. Enjoy the accompanying activities and help our young readers explore, discover, and create the world of books.

Early Readers

Fletcher and the Falling Leaves

Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race (picture book)

Whobert Whoever, Owl Detective

Ricky, the Rock that Couldn't Roll

Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille

Children's and Middle Grades

The Nocturnals

Wolf Island

Mr. Popper's Penguins

Hidden Figures: Young Readers' Edition

The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp

Fenway and Hattie

Teens

Brown Girl Dreaming

Mary's Monster: Love, Madness, and How Mary Shelley Created Frankenstein

Picture and Wordless Books for All!

Pink is for Blobfish

The Invention of Hugo Cabret

The Lion and the Mouse

Journey

Henry's Freedom Box

Flotsam

The Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors

Fossil

Unspoken

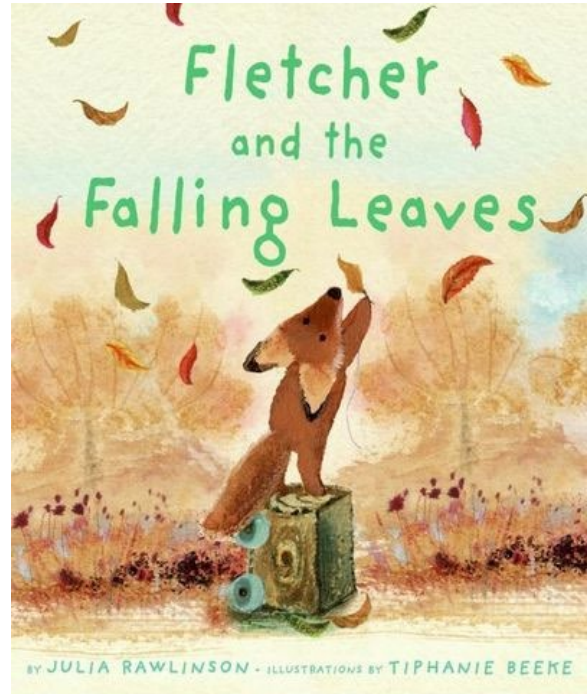
Fletcher and the Falling Leaves, Julia Rawlinson

Alternate title: Fox and the Falling Leaves

Ages: 4 to 8

Theme: seasons, nature, love

Synopsis from Scholastic: It's autumn, and Fletcher's favorite tree is slowly changing colors and losing its leaves. Fletcher is very worried. He tells the tree he'll help. But when the very last leaf falls to the ground, Fletcher feels as though he's let down his friend...until the first day of winter, when Fletcher sees that his tree has turned into a shining, glittering surprise.



Explore, Discover, Create with these activities:

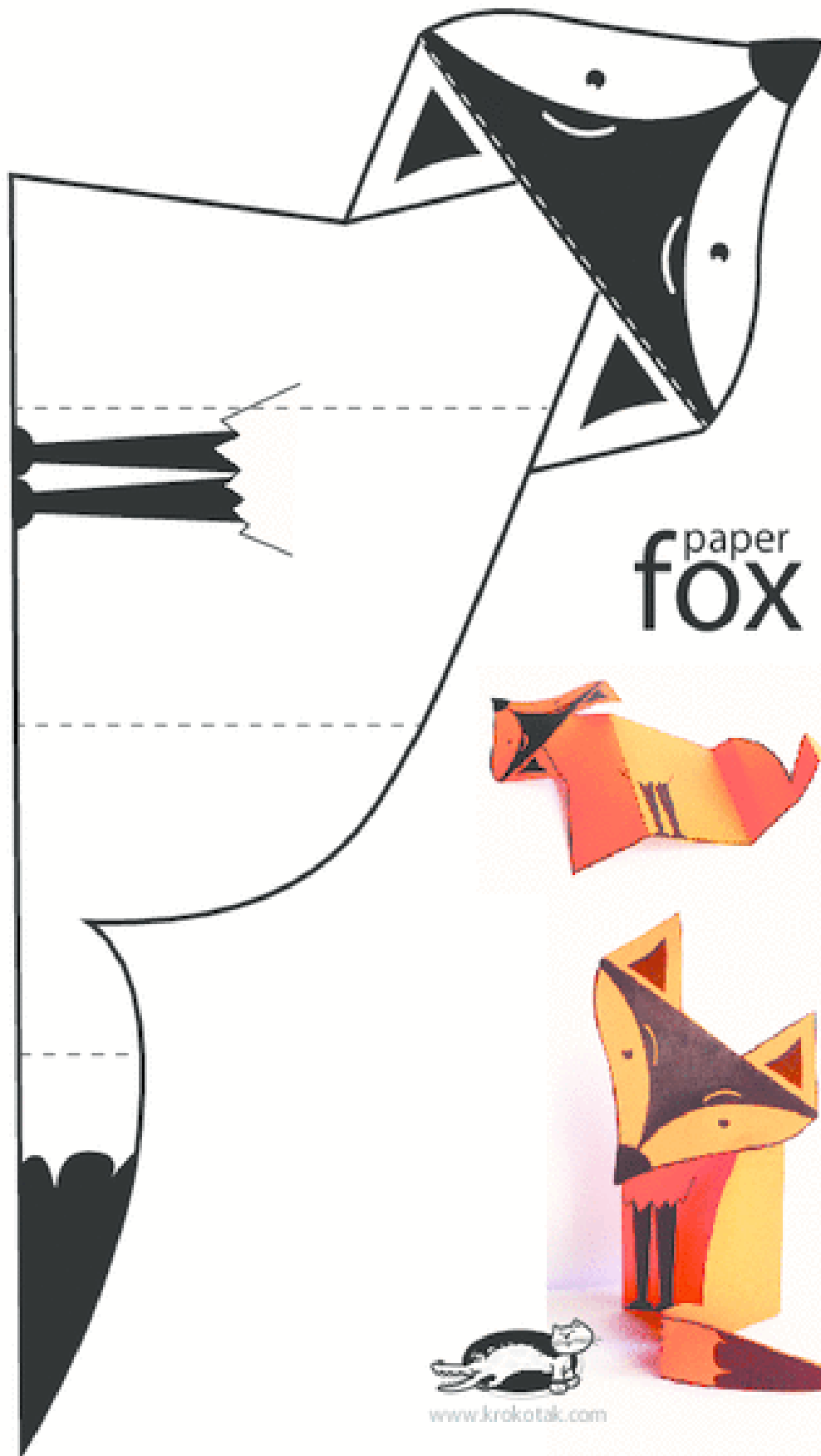
Brown paper bag tree:

<http://pikadillycharm.blogspot.com/2011/11/paper-bag-fall-tree.html>

Cut out fox, see following page:

<http://print.krokotak.com/p?x=163bfecb83824f24b1e59df0f929a5cf>

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Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race, Margot Lee Shetterly

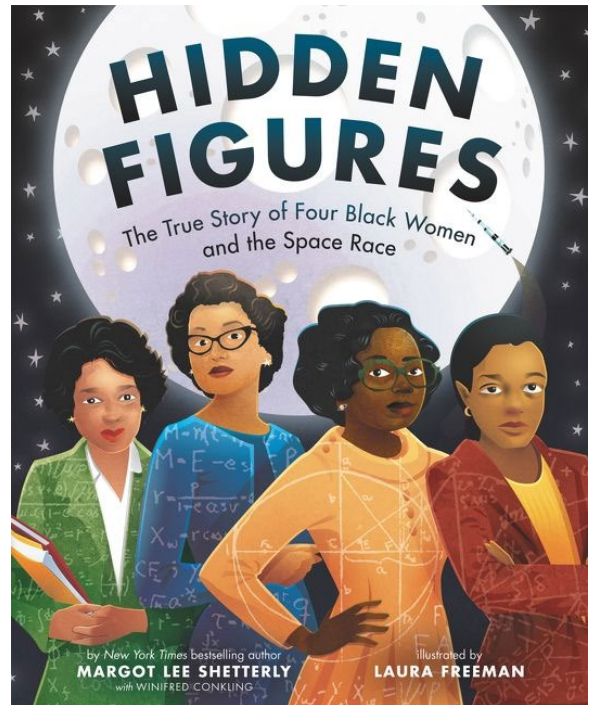
Ages: 4-8

Synopsis from Publisher: Based on the *New York Times* bestselling book and the Academy Award–nominated movie, author Margot Lee Shetterly and illustrator Laura Freeman bring the incredibly inspiring true story of four black women who helped NASA launch men into space to picture book readers!

Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden were good at math...*really* good.

They participated in some of NASA's greatest successes, like providing the calculations for America's first journeys into space. And they did so during a time when being black and a woman limited what they could do. But they worked hard. They persisted. And they used their genius minds to change the world.

In this beautifully illustrated picture book edition, we explore the story of four female African American mathematicians at NASA, known as "colored computers," and how they overcame gender and racial barriers to succeed in a highly challenging STEM-based career.



Explore, Discover, Create with this activity:

Straw rockets:

<https://buggyandbuddy.com/straw-rockets-with-free-rocket-template/>

Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille, Jen Bryant

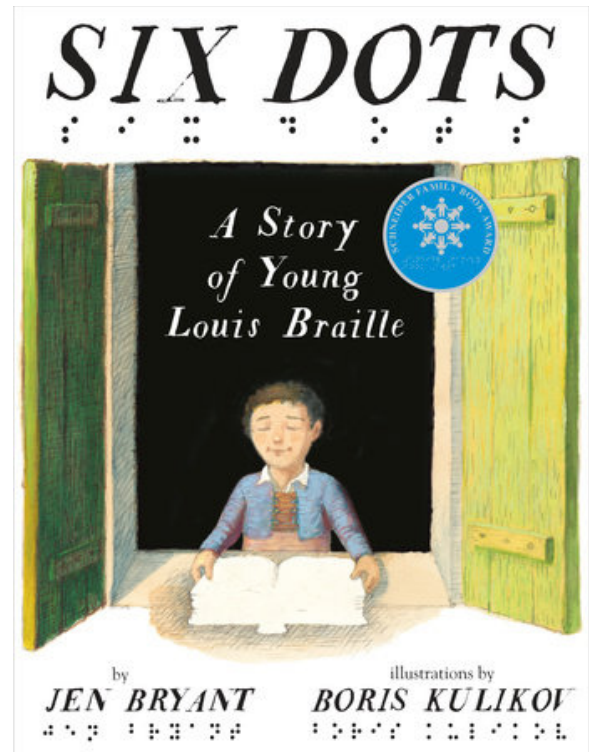
Ages: 4-8

Synopsis from publisher: Louis Braille was just five years old when he lost his sight. He was a clever boy, determined to live like everyone else, and what he wanted more than anything was to be able to read.

Even at the school for the blind in Paris, there were no books for him.

And so he invented his own alphabet—a whole new system for writing that could be read by touch. A system so ingenious that it is still used by the blind community today.

Award-winning writer Jen Bryant tells Braille's inspiring story with a lively and accessible text, filled with the sounds, the smells, and the touch of Louis's world. Boris Kulikov's inspired paintings help readers to understand what Louis lost, and what he was determined to gain back through books.



Explore, Discover, Create with this activity:

Make a Braille slate and stylus

<http://www.pinkstripeysocks.com/2017/02/make-simple-braille-slate-and-stylus.html>

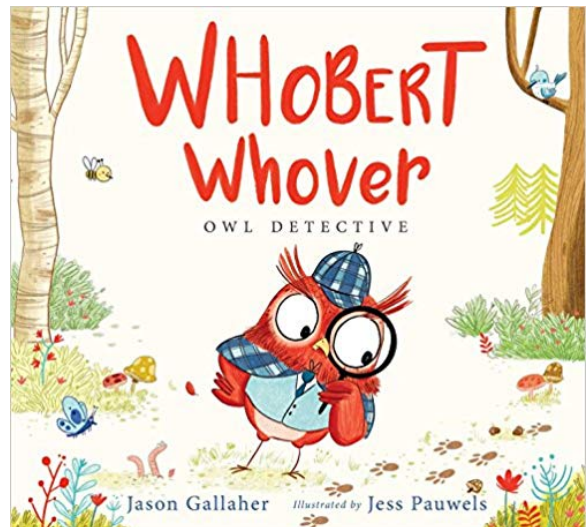
Whobert Whoever, Owl Detective, Jason Gallaher

Ages: 4-8

Synopsis from the Publisher: Help Whobert Whoever, Owl Detective, keep his woods safe in this hilarious who-who-dun-it. What happened to Perry the Possum?

Whobert Whoever, Owl Detective, is on the case! Did Debbie the Duck whack Perry with her wicked wings?

Or did Freddie the Frog soak Perry in his sickening slime? And what if the culprit is closer to home than Whobert expects?



Explore, Discover, Create with this free story hour kit from Curious City DPW:

<http://www.curiouscitydpw.com/download/13763/>

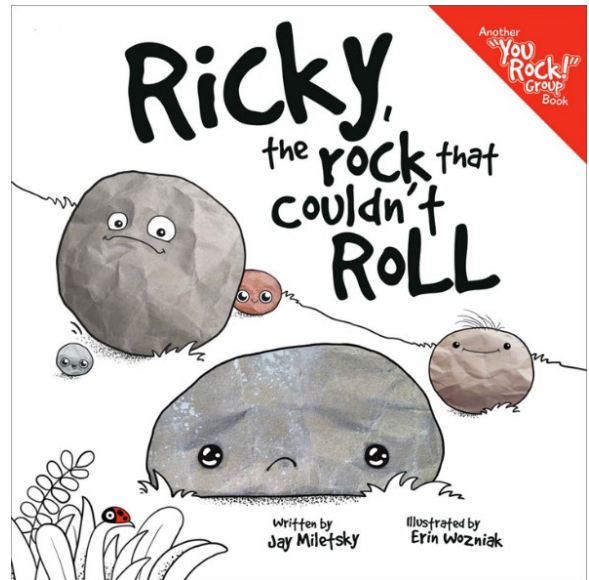
Ricky, the Rock that Couldn't Roll, Jay Miletsky

Ages: 4-8

Synopsis from author's website: Can 14 spunky rocks and one wise little ladybug help their friend learn to roll?

Get ready to meet a new rock group! From zippy, little pebbles to big strong boulders, the rocks get together to play and roll around their favorite hill, only to find that one of their friends, Ricky, can't roll with them. Unlike all of the others, who are all round, Ricky can't roll because he's flat on one side.

Determined not to leave their friend behind, the rocks and the ladybug set out to help Ricky roll around – one way or another. This sweet, imaginative picture book, written in verse, brings a fresh set of characters to life in a story that highlights perseverance and triumph in the face of adversity, and the power of true friendship, combining the spirit of *The Giving Tree* with the rhyme and rhythm of Dr. Seuss.



Explore, Discover, Create with these activities:

Paint kindness rocks:

<https://www.thekindnessrocksproject.com/>

Lesson plans that have fun activities too:

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Ricky-the-Rock-that-Couldnt-Roll-Lesson-Plans-4039706>

Nocturnals (series), Tracey Hecht & Sarah Feiber

Ages: 7-12

Book 1: The Mysterious Abductions

Book 2: The Ominous Eye

Book 3: The Fallen Star

Book 4: The Hidden Kingdom



Grown & Read Early Readers Series

Ages: 4-6

The Moonlight Meeting

The Slithery Shakedown

The Peculiar Possum

Explore, Discover, Create with these activities:

Heart craft masks:

https://www.nocturnalsworld.com/files/resources/documents/Animal_Heart_Craft_Full.pdf

The kindness game:

https://www.nocturnalsworld.com/files/resources/documents/Nocturnals_Kindness_Game_1.pdf

Matching game:

https://www.nocturnalsworld.com/files/resources/documents/New_Activity_Flyer_revised_4.26.pdf

More activity kits:

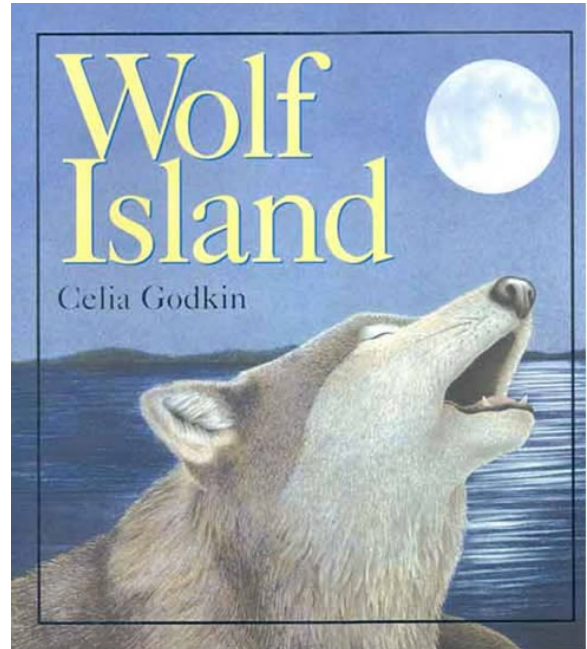
<https://www.nocturnalsworld.com/activitykits/>

Wolf Island, Celia Godkin

Ages: 4-8

From the Author's Website: Set on an island in Northern Ontario, the Wolf Island story, based on an actual event, is a moving chronicle of what happens when the highest link in a food chain is removed. The resultant population growth, food shortage, and starvation affect every member of the chain.

A family of wolves leave their island environment. Although, at first, their absence is unnoticed, nature's delicately balanced ecosystem comes undone over a period of months, and the mice, rabbits, squirrels, and even owls fight for survival. Finally, the accidental return of the wolf family to their home restores the island habitat to health.



Explore, Discover, Create with these activities:

Lessons plan on wolves:

https://www.fitzhenry.ca/usercontent/Fitzhenry/Marketing_imagery/Teachers-Guides/PDFs/WolfIslandTG.pdf

Lessons plan on wolves:

https://media.nationalgeographic.org/assets/file/Gray_Wolf_Educator_Guide.pdf

Mr. Popper's Penguins, Richard & Florence Atwater

Ages: 7-11

Synopsis from Scholastic: Mr. Popper painted and papered houses in the pretty little city of Stillwater. Once the house-painting season is over, Mr. Popper settles in for the winter to read his travel books.

He dreams of going to Antarctica one day; in fact, he never tires of reading about the South Pole. But one day the South Pole comes to him, in the form of a penguin in a package sent from the Antarctic explorer Admiral Drake. The penguin, dubbed Captain Cook after the "gook" sound he makes, lives with the Popper family, puts a strain on their modest means, and creates quite a stir in little Stillwater.

Soon, Captain Cook has a companion. A penguin named Greta arrives by mail, and to keep them happy, Mr. Popper has a large freezing plant installed in his cellar, where Greta begins laying eggs, and two penguins turn into eight.

Explore, Discover, Create with these activities:

Word search:

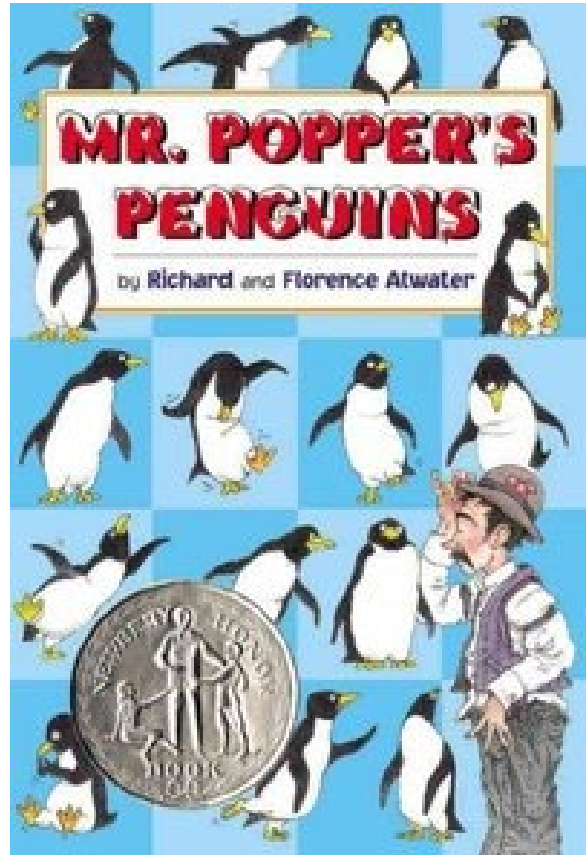
<https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/word-search/mr-poppers-penguins-word-search>

Make a penguin Christmas ornament:

<https://www.trueaimeducation.com/penguin-footprint-ornament/>

Make a paper penguin:

<http://www.readingconfetti.com/2013/01/circle-penguin-craft.html>



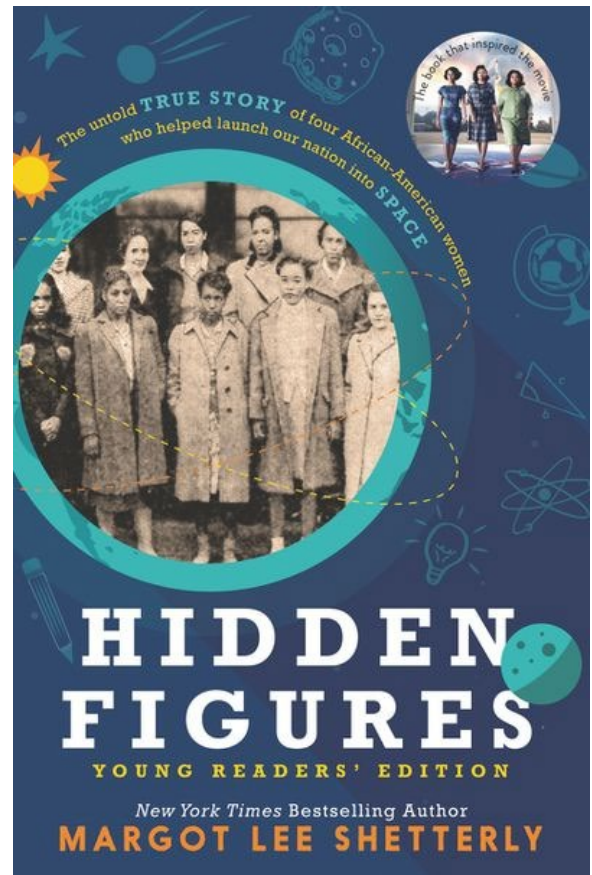
Hidden Figures (Young Readers Edition), Margot Lee Shetterly

Ages: 8-12

Synopsis from the publisher: his edition of Margot Lee Shetterly's acclaimed book is perfect for young readers. It is the powerful story of four African-American female mathematicians at NASA who helped achieve some of the greatest moments in our space program. Now a major motion picture starring Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monae, Kirsten Dunst, and Kevin Costner.

Before John Glenn orbited the earth, or Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of dedicated female mathematicians known as "human computers" used pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate the numbers that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space.

This book brings to life the stories of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden, who lived through the Civil Rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the movement for gender equality, and whose work forever changed the face of NASA and the country.



Explore, Discover, Create with these activities:

<http://www.homeschoolingheartsandminds.com/2013/03/math-craft-make-your-own-abacus.html>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/system/images/BAhbBlSfHOgZmSSI1MjAxMy8wOC8xMy8xMC81OS8xMy8zMTgyQmF0dGxIX29mX3RoZV9Sb2JvdHMucGRmBjoGRVQ/Battle%20of%20the%20Robots.pdf>

<http://ideagalaxyteacher.com/18-math-review-games-middle-school/>

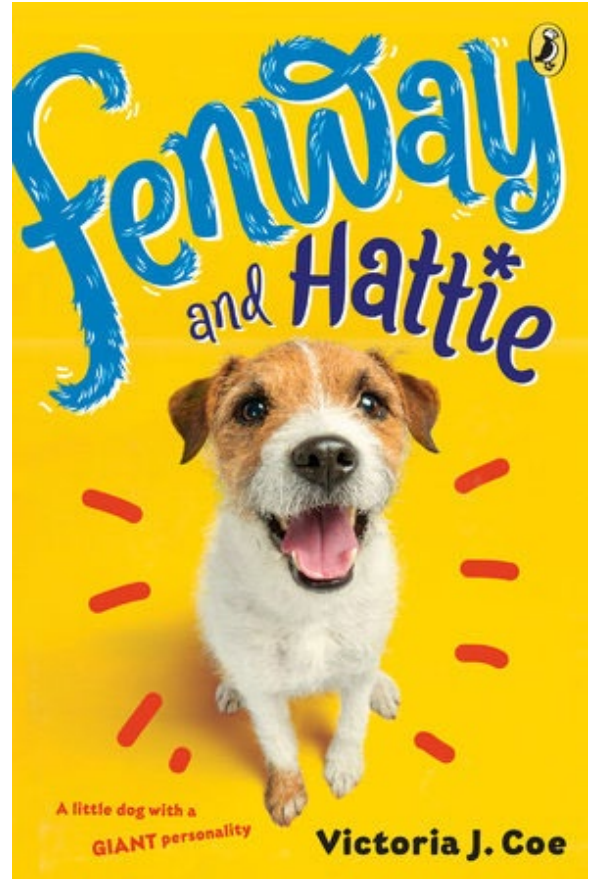
Fenway and Hattie (Book 1 of series)

Ages: 8-12

Synopsis from Publisher: Fenway is an excitable and endlessly energetic Jack Russell terrier. He lives in the city with Food Lady, Fetch Man, and—of course—his beloved short human and best-friend-in-the-world, Hattie.

But when his family moves to the suburbs, Fenway faces a world of changes. He's pretty pleased with the huge Dog Park behind his new home, but he's *not* so happy about the Evil Squirrels that taunt him from the trees, the super-slippery Wicked Floor in the Eating Room, and the changes that have come over Hattie lately. Rather than playing with Fenway, she seems more interested in her new short human friend and learning to play baseball. His friends in the Dog Park next door say Hattie is outgrowing him, but that can't be right. And he's going to prove it!

Get a dog's-eye view of the world in this heartwarming, enthusiastic "tail" about two best friends.



Explore, Discover, Create with these activities:

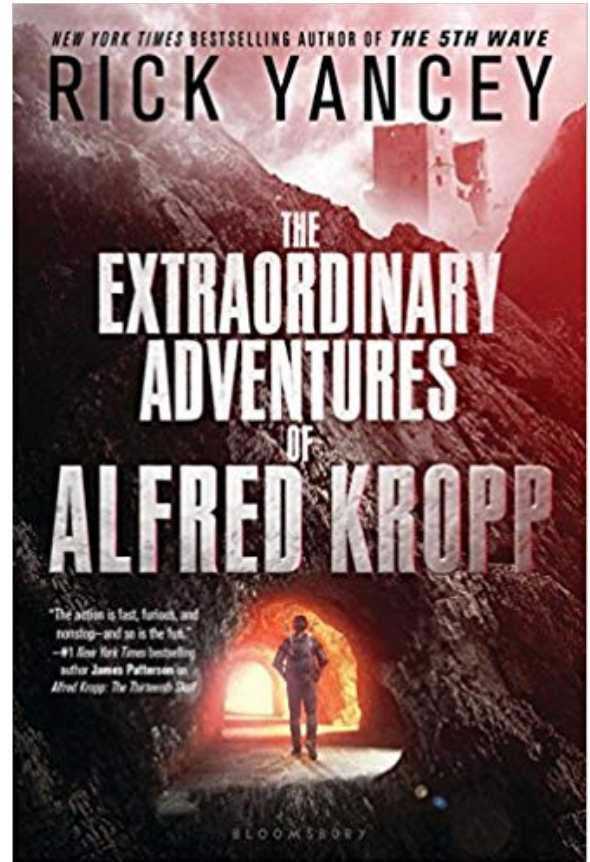
<http://www.penguin.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Classroom-Guide-to-Fenway-and-Hattie-Sept-2015.pdf>

The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp, Rick Yancey

Ages: 12 and up

Synopsis from the author's site: Alfred Kropp was just trying to survive high school when his guardian uncle gets him roped into a suspicious get-rich-quick scheme that changes his life forever: stealing Excalibur—the legendary sword of King Arthur.

But after Alfred unwittingly delivers the sword into the hands of a man with enormously evil intentions, he sets off on an unlikely quest to try to right his wrong and save the world from imminent destruction. This gripping, fast-paced, hilarious novel is both a thrilling adventure story and an engaging account of one boy's coming of age.



Explore, Discover, Create with these activities:

Activity Guide:

<https://www.rickyancey.com/yancey/files/adv-guide.pdf>

Adventure Guide

<https://www.rickyancey.com/books/the-extraordinary-adventures-of-alfred-kropp>

More Activities:

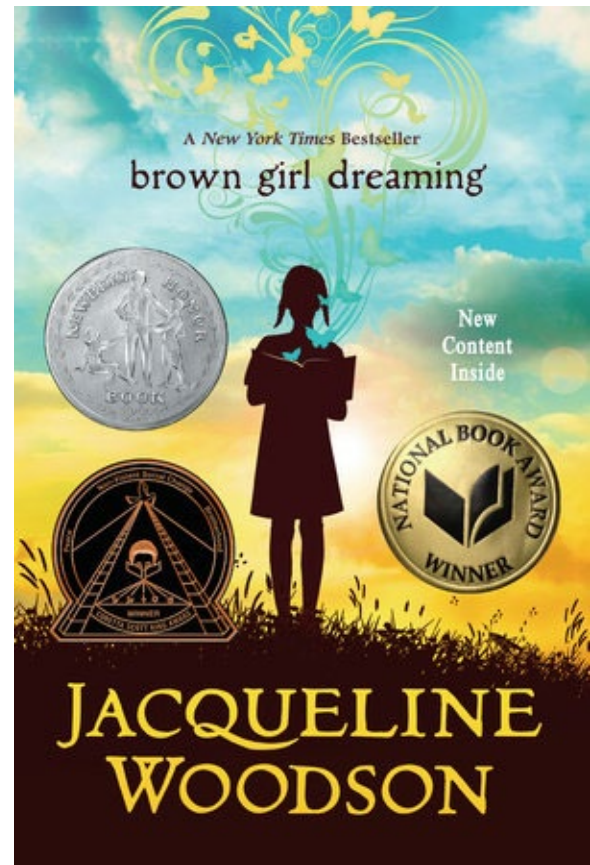
http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonplans/bookfairs/currconnection/downloads/cc_alfred_kropp.pdf

Brown Girl Dreaming, Jacqueline Woodson

Ages: 10 and up

Synopsis from the publisher: Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.

Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.



Explore, Discover, Create with these activities:

<http://www.penguin.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/BrownGirlDreaming17-guide.pdf>

Mary's Monster: Love, Madness and How Mary Shelley Created Frankenstein, Lita Judge

Ages: 15-18

Synopsis from Publisher: Pairing free verse with over three hundred pages of black-and-white watercolor illustrations, *Mary's Monster* is a unique and stunning biography of Mary Shelley, the pregnant teenage runaway who became one of the greatest authors of all time.

Legend is correct that Mary Shelley began penning *Frankenstein* in answer to a dare to write a ghost story. What most people don't know, however, is that the seeds of her novel had been planted long before that night. By age nineteen, she had been disowned by her family, was living in scandal with a married man, and had lost her baby daughter just days after her birth. Mary poured her grief, pain, and passion into the powerful book still revered two hundred years later, and in *Mary's Monster*, author/illustrator Lita Judge has poured her own passion into a gorgeous book that pays tribute to the life of this incredible author.



Explore, Discover, Create with these activities:

<https://images.macmillan.com/folio-assets/teachers-guides/9781626725003TG.pdf>

Picture and Wordless Books for All!

Wordless books rely on illustrations to tell the story. The pictures communicate emotion, humor, and engage the reader without having a single word. Wordless books are great for all reading levels and allow for independent reading. This makes them excellent choices for reluctant readers and children who struggle with reading to their grade-level.

For preschoolers, wordless books help with emerging literacy. They build vocabulary and language skills. As well as, encourage appropriate book handling skills for very young readers.

Older children benefit from wordless books too. The amazing illustrations used to tell the wordless story are greatly detailed for fantastic descriptions that take the reader on a journey. These high level of illustrations spark creativity in older children, challenge them to use their imaginations, and to think deeply about the story being told.

“Reading” wordless books aloud can help children develop their confidence with speaking and controlling an audience.

Tips and Ideas

- Follow your child’s pace with the book. If he or she would like to start in the middle or at the end, go with it.
- Be sure to make comments about the illustrations and ask your child questions about the pages. Describe your thoughts too. All these interactions build skills such as listening, emotional development, and visual literacy.
- Instead of game night or movie night, get a stack of wordless picture books for a family reading night. Have each person tell the story on the page then pass it to someone else to keep the story going.
- Use a wordless book to spark a creative project write out or draw more of the story.
- Above all—have fun!

Some Wordless Picture Books

